

A4
The cap 7 inside the small chamber 3 is pushed upward, bringing it into contact with the rear substrate 13, the exhaust system 11 continuing to exhaust the inside of the panel (step S8) and the gas introduction and sealing chamber 2 is leaked so as to be at atmospheric pressure (step S10). Next, the luminescent gas introduction system 10 introduces a luminescent gas mixture of argon (Ar), neon (Ne), and xenon (Xe), via the opening 7b, at a specified pressure of 53,200 to 79,800 Pa (400 to 600 Torr) (step S11). Fig. 3 shows the above noted condition in which a cap is pushed upward, and the plasma display panel is vacuum exhausted or filled with a luminescent gas.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13, beginning at page 12, line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

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After the above, as shown in Fig. 3, the heater is lowered (step S14), the cap 7 being lowered and the gas introduction and sealing chamber 2 is leaked so as to be at atmospheric pressure (step S15). The panel is moved to an unloader, and cooled to below 100 °C (step S16), after which the plasma display panel is removed from the unloader (step S17).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 7, to read as follows:

- A6
cont'd
1. (Amended) An apparatus for manufacturing a plasma display panel having an inside and comprising a joining chamber that forms a plasma display panel by joining a front substrate and a rear substrate by heating a low-melting-point glass and a gas introduction and sealing chamber which introduces a luminescent gas into said plasma display panel which is formed by said joining chamber via a gas introduction port provided in said front substrate or

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
TEL. 520.882.7623
FAX. 520.882.7643

175 CANAL STREET
MANCHESTER, NH 03101
TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567

said rear substrate, and seals said gas introduction port, said manufacturing apparatus further comprising:

a first mechanism for supplying a cover member formed by a metal sheet to which low-melting-point glass is applied to a first location within said gas introduction and sealing chamber,

a second mechanism provided in said gas introduction and sealing chamber for moving said cover member from said first location to a second location which is over a heating apparatus,

a third mechanism provided in said gas introduction and sealing chamber for performing vacuum exhausting the inside of said plasma display panel and introducing a luminescent gas into said plasma display panel, and

a fourth mechanism provided in said gas introduction and sealing chamber for heating said metal sheet to which said low-melting-point glass is applied by using said heating apparatus, so that said gas introduction port is sealed by said low-melting-point glass.

*A1
cont'd*

7. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a plasma display panel having an inside and formed by heating a low-melting-point glass so as to join a front substrate to a rear substrate, after which a luminescent gas is introduced into said plasma display panel via a gas introduction port provided in either said front substrate or said rear substrate, after which said gas introduction port is sealed, said method comprising:

a first step of fixing said front substrate of said plasma display panel to said rear substrates, placing said substrates into a joining chamber, and then performing vacuum exhausting an inside of said joining chamber,

HAYES SOLOWAY P.C.
130 W. CUSHING ST.
TUCSON, AZ 85701
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FAX. 520.882.7643

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TEL. 603.668.1400
FAX. 603.668.8567